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Letters to the Editor

The International Bully

In the recent military coup in Brazil, the President shed the mask of pretense about United States support of democratic institutions, or support of necessary change through parliamentary means. This was a glaring exposure of the real purpose of U.S. military aid south of the border; in fact, of U.S. military aid everywhere.

The prompt recognition and announced support of the leaders of the Brazilian military coup will, this writer believes, put all the democratic forces in Latin America now working for change through peaceful means on notice that the mighty United States is on the side of the status quo. They now must feel that they have no alternative to inaction except to join with the forces for violent change.

In Cuba, this Administration has further marred the image of the United States. Flying planes over Cuba without her permission is an act of war, a violation of international law as well as a violation of one of the cardinal provisions of the United Nations Charter, which the United States signed. When this is done to a small defenseless country like Cuba, it is almost certain to appear to the rest of the world as an act of supreme arrogance.

Cuba offers no military threat to the United States. At worst, Castro is no more than a nuisance, as noted by Senator Fulbright in a recent Senate speech. But playing the part of international bully by the United States is not only dangerous, but extremely degrading. It is worth millions of pages of propaganda and thousands of hours of radio and television propaganda to our opponents.

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